Sentence Detectives

Sort complete sentences and fragments.

7.L.GC.1 "Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics: Draw from knowledge of the conventions of Standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics when analyzing and constructing texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb. It expresses a complete thought.

The lanterns glowed along the path.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is not a complete sentence. It may be missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought.

After the parade ended.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT, then choose two items and explain how you knew their categories.

1.	The hikers packed their maps before sunrise.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
2.	My cousin repairs bicycles on weekends.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
3.	Under the old wooden bridge.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
4.	The thunder rattled the windows.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
5.	Because the library closed early.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
6.	Running quickly toward the finish line.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
7.	Our class planted herbs in the courtyard.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT
8.	Without any warning from the guide.	COMPLETE	FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new COMPLETE sentence and one new FRAGMENT.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment you wrote, revise it into a complete sentence, and name what you added.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Detectives

GRADE 7 · 7.L.GC.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers packed their maps before sunrise.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, hikers, and a verb, packed, and it expresses a complete thought.
2	My cousin repairs bicycles on weekends.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, cousin, and a verb, repairs, and it expresses a complete thought.
3	Under the old wooden bridge.	**FRAGMENT**	This prepositional phrase has no subject-verb statement or complete thought.
4	The thunder rattled the windows.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, thunder, and a verb, rattled, and it expresses a complete thought.
5	Because the library closed early.	**FRAGMENT**	This dependent clause begins with because and does not express a complete thought by itself.
6	Running quickly toward the finish line.	**FRAGMENT**	This participial phrase does not name who is running or give a complete thought.
7	Our class planted herbs in the courtyard.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, class, and a verb, planted, and it expresses a complete thought.
8	Without any warning from the guide.	**FRAGMENT**	This prepositional phrase has no subject-verb statement or complete thought.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPLETE**: A comet crossed the night sky.
- **FRAGMENT**: Near the cracked fountain.

Challenge: Fragment: Near the cracked fountain. Revision: Two pigeons rested near the cracked fountain. I added a subject and a verb.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify a complete thought or a missing subject, verb, or complete thought.